

A Serving Future

Matthew 20:20-28

How do we measure success in 2008?

More money? More power? Greater numbers?

1. A Serving Future models the Kingdom of God.

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” —Matthew 20:25-26

Context of Scripture Passage:

Matthew 19:13-15	Jesus blesses the little children
Matthew 19:16-26	Rich young ruler
Matthew 19:27	Peter’s response of self-denial
Matthew 19:28-29	Jesus reply of rewards, but first will be last (v. 30)
Matthew 19:30	Kingdom nature first last, last first.
Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of generous employer; the last is first and the first is last (v. 16)
Matthew 20:17-19	Suffering of Jesus
<i>Matthew 20:20-28</i>	<i>Request of James and John, leaders serve</i>
Matthew 20:29-34	The Blind see

A serving Future Models the Kingdom:

- The simple understand (the childlike possess).
- First will be last.
- Up is down.
- Messiahs suffer
- Leaders serve.
- Blind see.

2. A Serving Future **gives** rather than takes.

²⁷And whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." —Matthew 20:27-28

The most basic definition for wholeness is simply 51 percent.

—Erwin McManus, *Uprising* (140)

Picture a person who's every motivation, word, and actions were intended for the good of others.

This is essentially the life of Jesus.

Jesus was a 100 %er.

3. A Serving Future pursues the **downward** goal of service.

"So he [Jesus] got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." —John 13:4-5

- The way of God is the **path** of servanthood.
- Servanthood is our goal. Serving is the **top**.
- When we push ourselves to the top, we are pushing **away** from the presence of God.
- What would the character and beauty of God look like?

One who wrapped a **towel** around His waist and **washed** His disciples' feet.

Do you want a great 2008...

Great success, Great self-esteem, great acceptance, great relationships?

Seek to be like Jesus. Seek a serving Future.

Memory Verse:

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—Matthew 20:27-28